

Tribute to Marta (Martica) Arends



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It sure was strange how today the 12th of November Bacchanal has shared a memory post of how years ago we've visualized a San Nicolas as Carnival City of Aruba. The cover of Bacchanal 2012 was dedicated to Carnival Legends.

Then we posted a photo of mr. Errol Earl Brown being awarded as Carnival Legend by the S.M.A.C. yesterday on the 11th of November, 2019. Not even an hour after that Bacchanal got a message with the sad news that one of the Carnival Legends on the posted cover of Bacchanal 2012 namely mrs Martica Arends has passed away.

In November 2018 mrs. Martica Arends was with Bacchanal at the Carnival Euphoria opening in San Nicolas as a special guest. This photo taken by Edrick Krozendijk captures beautiful Martica's happy expression being part of a large Carnival family that has attended the opening of the exhibition giving her support to Bacchanal and to what must become the Carnival Museum of Aruba.

Today with more to follow about Martica and her illustrious Carnival trajectory Bacchanal wishes to share this text taken from the edition of 2012 to remember her by:

"More to the west of San Nicolas but still 'pariba di brug' (on the east side of the Balashi bridge) in the district of Savaneta we've visited Marta Arends. Everybody affectionately calls her by her nickname Martica. Martica has started her Carnival activities back in 1962 working with the 'Commandeurs Baai Club'. She was very fond of Carnival and she enjoyed thinking out themes for her group. Martica many times has taken the initiative to organize elections for Carnival Queen in her district of Savaneta. The winner would come out and participate with Aruba Official Carnival Queen Elections representing the district of Savaneta. In 1978 Martica together with others has founded the Savaneta Carnival Committee of which she became the president. Soon after that their Savaneta Carnival Group with the theme of 'Cactus Fantasy' won all but one of the prizes during the parade. They've won prizes for 'Most Luxurious', 'Historical', 'Original' and finally the highest title of becoming 'Carnival Group of the Year'. Martica was a very creative person who thought out themes like 'Fantasy of Ice', 'Fantasia Brasileira', 'Sea Fantasy' and many more. Martica knew how design the presence of her district Savaneta in Carnival in a very varied, creative and price-winning way."

Martica, it's been a real privilege and honor. We will surely miss and remember you.